

This statement outlines my recollection of events, circumstances, and climate surrounding the conduct of (b)(6), (b)(7)c during the Bravo Company Birthday Ball in November 2017.

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1. Can you please provide some color as to why the Commanding General was not informed of the allegations before the Request Mast?

I was made aware of the allegations in the current Request Mast on Friday, 04 May, following the B CO Rifle Range. After an extremely positive and productive discussion with the Marines involved and their Company and Detachment chains of command (outlined previously), we collectively agreed to a solid way ahead to everyone's satisfaction. We also agreed to maintain open and direct lines of communication in the event any of the Marines wanted to further discuss any issues or weren't comfortable discussing in a group (all had a direct line to me). I informed the Marines that I was travelling the remainder of the weekend to conduct a site visit in New York as well as personal travel, but would begin looking into the matter on Monday. My intent was to discuss the allegations with my I&I counterpart, the FHG SJA, the Bn EO Rep, and HHQ on Monday, as well as to possibly open a formal PI once armed with clear EO and legal guidance. All were in agreement at the end of the meeting.

Following the range, I drove to New Jersey/New York. On Saturday, 05 May, I inspected the ISB spaces in Brooklyn NY and talked to ISB Marines at that site. I also attended the 6thComm SgtMaj Post and Relief/retirement of (b)(6), (b)(7)c I was advised of the Request Mast the next day (Sunday, 5 May). I never got the chance to investigate further, confer with the staff, or initiate any of the agreed upon actions. As soon as I received word of the Request Mast, I notified the Deputy Commander and was told to stand down pending FHG process.

Admin Note – the Company Commander that received the Request Mast incorrectly forwarded the Request Mast to (b)(6), (b)(7)c erroneously believing he (b)(6), (b)(7)c had assumed the billet of FHG Chief of Staff. As a result, FHG received the actual Mast documentation prior to notification and routing through the Battalion.

Prior to 04 May, the only issues I had been informed of pertaining to the B CO Birthday Ball involved comments made by one guest to another, and a complaint that (b)(6), (b)(7)c had "offended" a Marine guest by directing that he not participate in the Unit photo (both outlined previously). Both were thoroughly investigated, to include consultation with the SJA and EO Reps. After said consultation and assurances that there were no legal or EO issues, both were handled at the Battalion level.

2. Did you consult with the FHG Sergeant Major before issuing a (b)(6), (b)(7)c If not, why?

(b)(6), (b)(7)c  
(b)(6), (b)(7)c

(b)(6), (b)(7)c

(b)(6), (b)(7)c

(b)(6), (b)(7)c

(b)(6), (b)(7)c

Note – the allegations in the current Request Mast were not raised at the time of the (b)(6), (b)(7)c  
They were not alleged until 04 May.

3. You mentioned that you had a coke before our speech at the MC Ball? Do you recall how many drinks you had after the Ball ceremony ended?

I spent the majority of the evening following the formal ceremony engaged with the Company Command Deck table, mostly (b)(6), (b)(7)c drinking the table soda/iced tea. At the end of the evening, after (b)(6), (b)(7)c departed the event, I moved toward the center of the hall (in the vicinity of the bar) as that is where a lot of guests lingered... I tried to meet/engage as many as possible. During the time, Marines/guests offered me drinks which I would sip for a toast or courtesy and then discard. In total, I would estimate I consumed three drinks or less over the course of the event.

4. Before the Ball started and you were at the entrance, did you hear the comments made from (b)(6), (b)(7)c  
(b)(6), (b)(7)c

I did not. I only saw (b)(6), (b)(7)c go over to the woman at the front door and offer to take over “greeting” duties so she could join her party upstairs. At that time, I was either speaking to the “Building Manager” about the building’s history or was assisting 1stSgt with a uniform issue. I did not know the identity of the woman.

5. What was the purpose of you and the (b)(6), (b)(7)c arriving early to the Ball?

There were several reasons for arriving early -- we wanted to offer assistance to the Company leadership, as needed, since the venue changed at the last minute; we wanted to walk through the retirement and Ball ceremonies since we had never been to the venue; I wanted to be available if the Guest of Honor arrived early since his timetable was a moving target; I wanted time to rehearse my comments. Additionally, this was the first time (b)(6), (b)(7)c and I had the opportunity to meet the B CO Marines (this was our first site visit)...we wanted to maximize that opportunity.

6. In your estimate, how much was the party you were with drinking at the Ball before the bar officially opened?

I do not know. I was walking through the venue in order to understand the retirement and Ball ceremonies. That said, it was not long after arriving at the venue that we met the “Building Manager” and she walked us through the building and answered questions about the building’s history. This included (b)(6), (b)(7)c and some of the 1stSgt’s guests.

7. Did you inform the Commanding General that a US Congressman was planning to attend the Ball? If not, why?

The FHG Chief of Staff, (b)(6), (b)(7)c was the point person for all Ball matters leading up to the Ball, and following the Ball. He was advised of all interactions with the Company, Legal, Protocol, etc., by both myself and (b)(6), (b)(7)c who was assisting with the coordination). I was advised that (b)(6), (b)(7)c

would consolidate all FHG matters at his level (to include the late announcement/ coordination of the B CO Guest of Honor) and pass to the Command Deck. I do not have access to my email correspondence at this time, and likely did not retain such correspondence regardless, but I believe that I was cc'd on correspondence from the COS summarizing Ball issues and guidance.

8. When (b)(6), (b)(7)c made the comments to (b)(6), (b)(7)c did you hear the comments? What was your recollection of what was said?

I do not know (b)(6), (b)(7)c nor did I hear any inappropriate comments b (b)(6), (b)(7)c to anyone. Please note, this allegation was not brought to my attention (to my knowledge, it was not brought to anyone in the Company or Battalion leadership) until the aforementioned meeting with the Marines on Friday, 04 May.

9. Why did you stay at the Ball if you felt you were not wanted?

I did not attach the feelings/comments of a few Marines to the entire Detachment. Although I was disappointed in the poor planning for the Ball and the comments made by (b)(6), (b)(7)c and others, I was excited at the opportunity to spend time with (b)(6), (b)(7)c and his staff, to be present for the retirement of a respected Marine, and to meet some of the B CO Marines for the first time. When the Guest of Honor cancelled, I also felt like the Battalion Command Deck presence added an extra level of formality to the event, allowing me to slide into the GoH role and adhere to the traditions/customs and courtesies normally celebrated at Ball ceremonies.

10. Do you believe (b)(6), (b)(7)c was highly intoxicated the night of the Ball?

At no time, did my interactions with (b)(6), (b)(7)c lead me to believe he was intoxicated or acting in any way inappropriately. In fact, I teased him at the end of the night that he was "staying-up way past his bedtime" and looked spent. This was not an alcohol-related comment. I know (b)(6), (b)(7)c has (b)(6), (b)(7)c He also works an early shift at his civilian employment. As a result, he goes to bed each night very early...noticeably so to me since we have shifted a lot of our Battalion business/conversations to the early morning as a result of (b)(6), (b)(7)c